



*THE  
DAUFUSKIE  
ISLAND  
PLAN*

*Executive  
Summary*

*May, 2018;*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Daufuskie Island Comprehensive Plan is the guide outlining the vision for the future of the Island and includes policies and tools for achieving that vision. South Carolina legislation requires the existence and periodic update of the comprehensive plan under South Carolina statute 6-29-510(A) for local governments. Although Daufuskie Island is not incorporated and is governed by Beaufort County, it is a significant and unique area, separated from the rest of the County by water. As such, it faces challenges, as well as opportunities, that are specific to the Island.

According to legislation, the comprehensive plan is required to include the following elements:

- Inventory of existing conditions
- Statement of needs and goals, including a vision statement that establishes the future desires of the community
- Implementation strategies

In addition to the elements identified above, the state planning legislation also identifies specific and relative community elements, including the requirement that the plan should be developed with broad-based community input and participation. The following elements are required to be included in the plan by statute 6-29-510(D).

- Population
  - Includes historical demographic data and characteristics and trends, which provides an understanding of the existing conditions and future potential of the area
- Economic Development
  - Includes historic data and characteristics regarding workforce, available employment and other relevant factors affecting the economy, such as tourism
- Natural Resources
  - Includes information on the environment and any unique assets or resources within the community
- Cultural Resources
  - Includes information on historic structures and other community features that relate to the cultural aspects of the community
- Community Facilities
  - Includes data and information on community infrastructure, assets and services
- Housing
  - Includes data and information of existing housing stock and characteristics
- Land Use
  - Includes considerations of the development characteristics and land use categories





- Transportation
  - Includes information regarding existing and planned multimodal transportation facilities and infrastructure
- Priority Investment
  - Includes the action plan for implementation of recommendations

The Daufuskie Island Comprehensive Plan was completed within the framework of the state planning requirements and in full coordination with Beaufort County. The Daufuskie Island Council Subcommittee served as the Project Advisory Committee, or Steering Committee, for the plan update and provided guidance and direction on the plan development. Members of the Council subcommittee include both members of the Council as well as members of the community.

The planning process included the following tasks:

- Public and Community Participation and Input
- Review of Existing Plans
- Development of Vision, Goals and Priorities
- Development of Existing Conditions for Each Plan Element
- Identification of Needs and Opportunities for Each Plan Element
- Identification of Character Areas and Development Strategies
- Development of the Work Program

Community involvement and coordination provides the foundation for the plan and it was developed with significant public participation efforts and extensive community input. Coordination meetings were held with Beaufort County Planning staff and presentations were made to the appropriate Beaufort County Commission Committees to provide updates on the progress of the plan development.

The process included four public workshops and an additional public meeting. All Project Advisory Committee meetings were open to the public and were very well-attended by members of the community. There were eight committee meetings held throughout the process held at significant milestones. Two community surveys were administered and were accessible on line, as well as through hard copy.





Through the public workshops, surveys, and input received from the Project Advisory Committee, a vision for Daufuskie Island was developed. The vision states:

*"Daufuskie is a pristine sea island with extraordinary natural, cultural and historic resources. Our vision is to support balanced, mindful growth that provides a sustainable economy, while preserving our unique and diverse community character, rural sense of place, and secluded island lifestyle. While recognizing property owners' rights to reasonable use of their land, we will minimize the threat to our natural environment, cultural and historic resources, and ensure the preservation of Daufuskie Island's natural beauty."*

Through community input, goals and priorities were also identified, along with the elements that are the major contributors to the Island's community character. The goals and priorities identified through public input include, in no priority order:

- A. Preservation of community character
- B. Balance growth and development with the existing community character
- C. Promote a sustainable economy compatible with existing community character
- D. Preserve and enhance community assets, including the natural beauty of the island
- E. Promote environmental stewardship
- F. Preserve the island history and culture, including a focus on the native Gullah heritage

The major contributors to the island community character were identified as:

- Natural beauty and coastal environment
- Lack of large commercial/retail developments
- Quietness
- Slower pace of life
- Rustic/rural character
- Community involvement/sense of community
- Geographic location/lack of a bridge

Building on the existing conditions on the Island for each of the plan elements, needs, issues and opportunities were identified through the public participation process. Work Program action items were identified and focused to achieve the overall Island vision and goals identified through the process.

Daufuskie Island is unique in that it is an unincorporated area that is governed by Beaufort County. The Daufuskie Island Council is an elected body to provide input to the Beaufort County Council on behalf of the Island community. The Daufuskie Island Council has had a committee structure to address issues and coordinate with the County. With no governmental structure or funding in place, the committee structure of the Island Council has





been identified as leaders in implementing these action steps. The recommendation of the plan is to restructure these committees into standing committees, which focus on their previous areas of interest, or an expanded/combined area. One new committee has been recommended. The existing committee structure and the recommended 2018 committee structure is shown below.

2018 Committee	Previous Committee	Scope
Cultural, Historic, and Natural Preservation	Cultural and Historic Preservation	Protection, preservation and enhancement of community cultural and historic resources
Island Plan and Code	Same	Plan implementation
Coordination	External Outreach	Coordination with Beaufort County; local governments; state, local and regional agencies
Transportation	Ferry Roads	Focus on all multimodal transportation needs and infrastructure
Community Facilities and Assets	Island Amenities Solid Waste	Focus on the maintenance, enhancement and development of facilities and infrastructure
Resource Development and Grants	Resource	Focus on marketing, branding, identification of financial resources and grant opportunities
Economic Development	None	Focus on economic development opportunities, promotion and education in coordination with the other committees

The community of Daufuskie Island includes many talented and accomplished residents with numerous contacts who can provide insight and assistance into all of these areas. A network of resources will need to be established that can, and are willing to provide support to each of these committees and their activities. Each of the work items have been structured to assist in achieving these goals. Many of the action items identified will incorporate multiple goals. Each of the items also includes a timeframe for action. The identified timeframes are as follows:

- Short-range: 1-2 years
- Mid-Range: 3-5 years
- Long-Range: 5-10 years





*Work Plan to Achieve Island Goals*

Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>			
Promote eco-tourism and off-peak tourism	A,B,C,E	Ongoing	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Eco-Tourism includes both existing peak season and promotion of tourism in off-peak season
Identify group camping sites and ensure sites are in accordance with code	A,B,C,E	Short-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Coordination with Plan Implementation Committee
Develop marketing and branding to effectively market Daufuskie Island as an eco-tourism destination	B,C	Short-Range/Ongoing	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Identify resources for assistance with marketing and branding
Coordinate with existing birding trails and develop amenities for birding trail sites on Daufuskie Island	B,C,D	Mid-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Identify resources and assistance for research and coordination opportunities
Promote agri-business in coordination and cooperation with Daufuskie Community Farm	B,C,D,F	Mid-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Coordinate with Community Farm and other agri-business organizations to understand and develop opportunities
Work with Daufuskie small business initiative and SCORE Association (Service Corps of Retired Executives) to develop a support network and small business incubator	B,C	Long-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Coordinate with SCORE





Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
Provide educational opportunities for the community to understand development requirements, pro-formas, etc.	B,C	Short-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Identify educational resources
Develop economic base to ensure young people can remain on the island and earn a living.	B,C	Ongoing	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ASSETS COMMITTEE</b>			
Continue to work with County and community organizations and members to address the issues with the existing dump site with potential short-term solutions, ie. fencing, manning the facility, covered dumpsters	D,E	Ongoing	DI Council Committee, Community Organization and Citizen Volunteer Time
Continue to coordinate on a long-term, sustainable solid waste facility	D,E	Mid-Range	DI Council Committee, Community Organization and Citizen Volunteer Time
Continue and expand Adopt-A-Road Program	A,D,E	Ongoing	Volunteer time/Coordination with Daufuskie Island Conservancy
Coordinate to include in tourist pamphlets information regarding litter prevention and golf cart safety	A,B,D,E	Short-Range	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time/Coordination with Existing Businesses with Tourist Information
Organize a volunteer network to maintain public facilities	A,B,D,E	Ongoing	DI Council Committee and Volunteer Time
Ensure roadway and dumpsite grading do not adversely impact environmental resources and drainage	E	Ongoing	DI Council Committee/Coordination with County







Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
Identify services lacking for year-round Island residents, including those needed to serve aging populations, and prioritize need to develop options for meeting the identified needs	B,C	Ongoing	DI Council Committee, Community and Volunteer Time/Coordination with County, Other Organizations to Potentially Meet Needs
<b>PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE</b>			
Update and simplify Island Code	A,B,C,D,E,F	Short-Term	DI Council Committee
Monitor progress of plan recommendations	A,B,C,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee
Establish on-island planning advisory board to provide input to County and County Planning Commission regarding Island developments and consistency with code	A,B,C,D,E,F	Short-Term/Ongoing	DI Council Committee
<b>TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE</b>			
Work with County to identify and implement potential road material that can stabilize the unpaved roads without paving to avoid additional impervious surfaces and drainage issues	A,D,E	Mid-Term	DI Council Committee
Continue to Coordinate with County and Palmetto Breeze to provide stable, consistent, and quality public ferry service	A,B,C	Ongoing	DI Council Committee
Open discussions with SCDOT/Office of Public Transit to gain understanding of transit funding and explore additional options	A,B,C	Short-Term	DI Council Committee







Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
Research other ferry systems' organizational structures, funding mechanisms to identify potential models	A,B,C	Short-Term	DI Council Committee
Continue to coordinate with County on acquisition of rights of way on roads maintained by the County for more than 20 years.	A,B,D,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee
<b>CULTURAL/HISTORIC/NATURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE</b>			
Work with the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor to promote Daufuskie and identify opportunities for heritage preservation and potential funding	A,B,D,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee/Community Organizations and Community Members Volunteer Time
Coordinate with organizations such as the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation and other interested parties to address preservation of historic Gullah houses and identify grant opportunities	A,B,D,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee/Community Organizations and Community Members Volunteer Time
Work with and support existing preservation groups on the island	A,B,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee/Community Organizations and Community Members Volunteer Time
Meet with Tybee Island officials and SC state agencies to understand grant opportunities for beach renourishment	D,E	Short-Term	DI Council





Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
Coordinate with Beaufort County to conduct a significant tree survey and develop protections within the code for significant trees	A,B,D,E	Mid-Term	DI Council/Beaufort County Staff Time
Continue with existing wayfinding signage	A,B,C,F	Ongoing	DI Council Committee/Community Organizations and Community Members Volunteer Time
<b>COORDINATION COMMITTEE</b>			
Continue close coordination with Beaufort County staff and elected officials on issues affecting Daufuskie Island	A,B,C,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council and Committee
Work with Beaufort County, state and regional agencies to identify funding for grants researcher and writer	A,B,C,D,E,F	Short-Term	DI Council and Committee
Establish committee, including Beaufort County officials, to examine and identify governance options for the Island	A,B,C,D,E,F	Mid-Term	DI Council and Committee
Continue to use existing tools to communicate community information (website, social media)	A,B,C,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council and Committee
Coordinate with Daufuskie Island Fire and Emergency Services and Beaufort County Emergency Management officials to educate and inform residents on hurricane preparedness	A,B,C,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council and Committee





Action Items	Goal Addressed by Action Item	Timeframe	Cost Estimate/Notes
Work with state economic development agencies and tourism agencies for assistance and support in developing programs to capitalize on tourism	A,B,C,D,E,F	Ongoing	DI Council and Committee
<b>RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS COMMITTEE</b>			
Utilize existing community resources to identify potential grant opportunities	A,B,C,D,E,F	Short-Term	DI Council Committee and Community Organizations
Coordinate with community resources, organizations and businesses to develop major Island festival (in addition to Daufuskie Days)	A,B,C,D,E,F	Short-Term	DI Council Committee, Community Organizations and Businesses
Identify and hire grants researcher/writer (part time)	A,B,C,D,E,F	Long-Term	DI Council/Funding from Organizations, Proceeds from Fund-raisers and Festival

